

Dark Star

*for mixed voices
S. A. T. B. a cappella*

*text and music
by
Lee McClure*

the text:

Dark Star

Life lives
In the middle of the night
In memories casting shadows
Of a time that rushed forward
Against the invisible walls
Flashing past the Blind
Who could feel, riding under them,
The wave of joy in a broad crest
That curls over knowledge's reef
And runs up the sand
Sliding to the left before
Slipping counterclockwise back
Through crystalline fathoms
Down to where finally
The silence, which slowly
Bending the course of time
Against changing currents
Eludes everything but the

Rising of a dark star
whose
Warning of a twilight
that will
Only too quickly fold
into the
Dawn of day breaking
through the
Surface as it disperses
the
Last shadows remaining
which now being absorbed
Give a slight shimmer
to the
Dappled morning light
Sparsely spreading across the
floor of my room.

This I carry out into the day
For as long as I can,
'Til life lets us join again
Far beyond
The end.

DARK STAR – Text by Lee McClure
As altered for the score
for chorus or quartet, S,A,T,B

Life lives
In the middle of the night
In memories casting shadows of a time
In memories, in memories, in memories
Casting shadows of a time

That rushed forward, rushed forward,
Rushed forward, rushed forward
Against the invisible walls
That were flashing past the blind
Forward against the walls

Against, against the invisible walls
That were flashing past the blind who could,
The blind who could feel riding
Under them the time that rushed
In memories – feel the time that rushed
Against the walls flashing past
The blind in memories that
Rushed forward, rushed forward

Against the invisible walls
Rushed forward
Against the invisible walls
Flashing past the blind who could feel
Riding under them

Under them the wave of joy
In a broad crest
That curls over knowledge's reef and
Runs, runs up the sand
Sliding, sliding, sliding

Counterclockwise back through crystal,
Crystal, crystal, crystal
Back through crystalline fathoms
Down to where, to where, down to where
Where finally

The silence –
Which slowly bending –
The course of time –
Against changing currents –

The silence – the silence eludes –
Everything –
But the rising of a dark star

Whose warning of a twilight
The silence of a dark star
Eludes everything – whose warning –
But the rising of a twilight
The silence that will
Of a dark star eludes everything
Only too quickly – eludes
But the rising of a twilight

Fold into everything that will -
The dawn of a dark star
But the rising . . . whose warning
Warning of a dark star . . .
That will — breaking, breaking
Fold into the dawn of day

Breaking, breaking through the
Surface - as it disperses - - -
The last shadows remaining
Which now – being absorbed
Which now – give a slight shimmer
Give a slight shimmer to

To the dappled morning light
Dappled morning light . . .
Sparsely spreading across –
Dappled morning light
Sparsely spreading across
The floor of my room
The dappled morning light

This I carry out
In to the day
For as long
As I can
Till life
Lets us join again
Far beyond
The End

Dark Star

text & music
Lee McClure

J=80

f *ff* *mf* *Ritard* *f* *ten.* *fff* *p* *J=40*

Soprano: Life lives in the mi-dle of the night in

Alto: Life lives mi-dle of the night

Tenor: Life lives in the mi-dle of the night

Bass: Life lives the night in

4

mp *ten.*

me-mo-ries casting shadows of a time

in me-mo-ries, in

in me-mo-ries, in

memo-ries— casting— time in

Note: in all meter changes, ♩ = ♩

2c/c

[9]

(♩=40)

Pg. 2

Ritard *mf* *ff* *♩=132*

casting shadows of a time that

memo-ries, in memo-ries casting shadows of a time that

memo-ries, in memo-ries casting shadows of a time that

time that

time that

[13]

ff *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *mf* *ff* *p*

rushed *a* *gainst* *the in-*

rushed

rushed forward rushed forward

rushed forward rushed forward rushed forward rushed forward rushed forward

[17]

(♩=132)

Pg. 3

Handwritten musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written on three staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked (♩=132). The dynamics are marked *mf* and *cres.*. The lyrics are: "vi-si-ble walls that were fla-shing past the rushed foward rushed foward rushed foward rushed foward."

[21]

Handwritten musical score for measures 21-24. The score is written on three staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked (♩=132). The dynamics are marked *mf*, *p*, *cres.*, and *mp*. The lyrics are: "Blind a- gainst the in- vi- si- ble rushed foward a- gainst the walls rushed foward rushed foward."

25

(♩=132)

Pg. 4

Handwritten musical score for measures 25-28. The score is written for four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "walls that were flashing past the Blind who could, the a-against the walls flashing past the Blind who could, the rushed forward a-against the walls past the Blind who could, the". Dynamics include *mf cres.* and *f*. There are also handwritten markings like "H" and "H-f" above the staves.

29

Handwritten musical score for measures 29-32. The score is written for four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in treble and bass clefs. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Blind who could feel ri-ding un-der them a time that rushed in Blind who could feel ri-ding un-der them a time that rushed in Blind who could feel ri-ding un-der them the wave could". Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. There are also handwritten markings like "H" and "H-f" above the staves.

me-mo-ries, the Blind who could feel a time that rushed a-

me-mo-ries, the Blind who could feel a time that rushed a-

feel ri-ding under them the wave that rushed a-

feel ri-ding under them the wave that rushed a-

-gainst the walls flashing past

-gainst the walls past the Blind

-gainst the walls flashing past in me-mories

-gainst the walls past the Blind in me-mories that rushed forward-

140

p a-against *mf* the in-vi-si-ble walls

mp rushed foward *p* rushed foward- rushed foward- rushed foward-

p a-against *mp* the in-vi-si-ble walls *f* *mp* a-

mp rushed foward *mp* rushed foward *mp* rushed foward *mp* rushed foward-

H mp cres - poco - fla - shing

H mp cres - poco - fla - shing

46

(J=132)

Pg. 7

mf *a* *poco*

past the Blind who could feel

f *mf* *cres*

against the in-vi-si-ble walls the Blind

mf *a* *poco*

past the Blind who could feel

mf *cres*

rushed forward against the walls the in-vi-si-ble walls against the walls

49

f *sempre*

ri-ding un-der them under them the wave of joy

f *sempre*

who could feel riding under them the wave of joy

f *sempre*

ri-ding un-der them the wave of joy

f *sempre*

flashing past the Blind who could feel riding under them the wave of joy

in a broad crest that curls o ver knowledge's

in a broad crest that curls o ver knowledge's

in a broad crest that curls o ver knowledge's

in a broad crest that curls o ver knowledge's

reef and run runs up the sand be

reef and run runs slipping

reef and run runs to the

reef and runs the left be-

* get to "ng" of "slipping" immediately and keep it forte.

59 ($\text{♩} = 132$)

Pg. 9

Ritard ————— $\text{♩} = 80$ Accel *mf* —————

3-fore sliding ritard sliding ritard sliding ritard

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

counter-clock-wise counter-clock-wise counter-clock-wise counter-clock-wise

— fore — sliding — counter-clock-wise

63

A Tempo ($\text{♩} = 132$)

ff *f*

back thru crystal line fathoms

A Tempo *ff* *f*

back thru crystal crystal

A Tempo *ff* *f*

back thru crystal crystal

ff A Tempo *f*

back thru crystal crystal

67

(♩=132)

Pg. 10

Ritard

back thru crystalline fa-thoms down to where

back thru back thru crystalline fa-thoms down to

back thru cry-stalline fa-thoms down

crystal-line fa-thoms down to where

70

fi-nal-ly

where

to where fi-nal-ly

fi-nal-ly the si-lence

74

(♩ = 44)

Pg. 11

Handwritten musical score for measures 74-77. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features four staves. The top staff has a melodic line with lyrics "which slowly ben di-ng". The second staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. The third staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. The fourth staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. Dynamics include *mp*, *pp*, *p*, and *p** (almost inaudible). There are also markings for phrasing like (n) and (-ce).

78

Handwritten musical score for measures 78-81. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features four staves. The top staff has a melodic line with lyrics "a- gainst changing current s the silence e-". The second staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. The third staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. The fourth staff has a piano accompaniment with a melodic line and a bass line. Dynamics include *pp*, *mp*, *p*, and *p**. There are also markings for phrasing like (m) and the si-len.

* *p** = almost inaudible

83

(♩=44)

e-v'ry -thing
 -lu des e-v'ry -thing
 -lu des e-v'ry -thing
 ce si-lence but

86

the ri-sing of a dark star whose
 the ri-sing -ludes
 the si-lence e-ludes

* the attack of new words or syllables = 1^{ary}; all melismas = 2^{ary} in ms. 87-108

[89] (♩=44)

Pg. 13

(mp)

war—ning of a twi—light the si—

(mp)

war—ning of a twi—light the si—

(mp)

8 e—v'ry thing — but the — of a dark star

(mp)

the — ri—sing of a dark star

[93]

-lence e-ludes e—v'ry thing — but the ri—

-lence e-ludes e—v'ry thing

12. 3

whose war—ning — of a

[97]

(♩=44)

Pg. 14

(mp)

Handwritten musical score for system [97]. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains the lyrics "sing of a dark star" and "e-ludes e-v'ry". The second staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "the si-lence". The third staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "the". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "twi—light that will". The system is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

[101]

Handwritten musical score for system [101]. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It contains the lyrics "whose war—" and "ning of a". The second staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "thing" and "but the ri". The third staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "si—lence" and "e-lu—". The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, containing the lyrics "only too qui—ckly". The system is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

(mp) *twi—light—* *that will—*

(mp) *sing* *of a dark*

(mp) *des e—vry—thing—*

(mp) *fold in—to the dawn of day—*

cres } *poco* — *a* —
Accel } *only too quickly— on—ly too*

cres } *poco* — *a* —
Accel } *star* *whose war—ning*

cres } *poco* — *a* —
Accel } *but the ri—sing — of a dark star whose*

cres } *poco* — *a* —
Accel } *— breaking day breaking day breaking*

III

Pg. 16

(Accel.)

poco

quickly only too quickly only that will

of a twi-light too quickly

war-ning of a twilight that will

day breaking day breaking day brea-king

III

on-ly too quickly fold in-to the dawn of

only too quickly fold in-to the dawn of

only- too quickly fold in-to the dawn of

day breaking day breaking day breaking dawn of

117

Pg. 17

Handwritten musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "day breaking through the day breaking thru the day breaking breaking thru".

Dynamic markings: *f* (forte), *cres* (crescendo), *Accel* (accelerando).

The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers the first two measures, and the second system covers the next two measures. Each voice part has its own staff with lyrics written below the notes.

120 Allegro $\text{♩} = 120$

Handwritten musical score for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "surface as it disperses the surface as it disperses the".

Dynamic markings: *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano).

The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers the first two measures, and the second system covers the next two measures. Each voice part has its own staff with lyrics written below the notes.

Handwritten musical score for measures 123-126. The score is written on four staves. The lyrics are: "being absorbed shadows remaining which now which last which now which". The dynamics are marked as *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. There are handwritten annotations: "*mp* < *mf* > *mp*" above the first staff, "*p* < *mp* > *p*" above the second staff, and "(4)" above the second staff. The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute.

127

Handwritten musical score for measures 127-130. The score is written on four staves. The lyrics are: "give a slight shimmer give a slight now give a slight now give a slight". The dynamics are marked as *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute.

131

(J=120)

Pg. 19

Handwritten musical score for measures 131-135. The score is written on four staves, with the first two staves in treble clef and the last two in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 2/4 for the first two staves and 4/4 for the last two. The music includes dynamic markings such as *sfz*, *f*, *fff*, and *mp*. The lyrics "shimmer", "to", and "to the" are written below the staves. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

135

Handwritten musical score for measures 135-139. The score is written on four staves, with the first two staves in treble clef and the last two in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4 for the first two staves and 4/4 for the last two. The music includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *mp*. The lyrics "dappled morning light" and "light" are written below the staves. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

mf
spar—sely—sprea—ding across—

mf
spar—sely—sprea—ding across—

mf mf mf mf mf
light light light light—

mf mf mf mf
light light light light—

143

f H
mp
da—ppled morning light da—ppled

f mp
da—ppled morning light morning morning morning

f mp
a—cross the da—ppled

mf f mp
dappled morning light da—ppled

146 (♩=120)

Pg. 21

f *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*
 light spar-sely spreading a-cross
mf *mp* *mf* *mp*
 light mor-ning light spar-sely
mf *mp* *mf* *mp*
 mor-ning dapple dapple dappled light sparsely spreading a-
mf *mp* *mf* *mp*
 mor-ning mor-ning light spar-sely

150

f *mf* *p* *mf*
 a-cross the floor of my
mf *p* *mp* *mf*
 spreading morning light morning light of my
mf *p* *mf*
 -cross the floor dapple dappled light
mf *p* *mf*
 spreading dapple dappled light

153 (♩=120)

Pg. 22

153 (♩=120)
 room this I
 room the dappled morning light this I
 spreading a-cross this I carry out
 spreading the floor this I carry out

Dynamics: *f*, *mp*, *p*, *cres*
 Time signature: 4/4

156

156
 car ry out in to the
 car ry out in to
 carry out carry out to
 this I carry out this I carry out to

Dynamics: *f*, *sfz*
 Time signature: 4/4

[151] (♩=120)

Pg. 23

Handwritten musical score for measures 151-154. The score is written on four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩=120. The dynamics are marked as *ff* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "day— for as long— day— day— day—". There are handwritten notes: "rit." (ritardando) and "as long" in the second staff.

[162]

Ritard to end

Handwritten musical score for measures 162-165. The score is written on four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *pp sempre* (pianissimo sempre). The lyrics are: "as — I can 'til life — as long as I can —". There are handwritten notes: "ritard" (ritardando) and "pp sempre" (pianissimo sempre).

[165]

Pg. 24

H (Rit.)

lets us join a gain far be

#d can qd. far be-

in to the day lets us join-

can far be-

[168]

Prounce "the" as "a" in "about"

H (J=66), p ten. mp p⁴

-yond far be-yond the end.

-yond the # end.

far beyond the uh end.

-yond the uh end. fine